

A Long and Winding Road to the NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

It was a long and winding road that brought the Bethesda Big Train team to the very top spot in all of summer college baseball, an accomplishment not even imaginable to the coaches and players who began to assemble just before Memorial Day 2011. The extraordinary journey began with a solid opening night 4-0 victory over the Baltimore Redbirds on Friday June 3 at Povich Field, wound its way through Harrisonburg, Virginia, and ended in a classic wooden ballpark on the coastal plain of North Carolina on Saturday, August 13, fifteen days after the Big Train swept through the Ripken League championship series.

Virtually all long-time Big Train fans agree that the 2009 team was the best Big Train team ever, winning the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League regular season and league championship series, being rated the ninth best team in all of summer college baseball, and completely rewriting the Big Train offensive record book. With a second consecutive Ripken League championship and another national ranking (#27), the 2010 Big Train will long hold a place as one of the best Big Train teams. The reasonable goal for the 2011 Bethesda Boys of Summer was very clear – put together the league's best regular season record and win a third consecutive Ripken League championship series. Nothing less would do.

Matching the 2009 team's top ten national ranking seemed possible, but perhaps a bit of a stretch. That number nine ranking was a source of great pride as the Big Train played in the fledgling Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League founded in 2005, one hundred and twenty years after the storied Cape Cod League got started in 1885. The Alaska Baseball

League (1974), Jayhawk League (1976), and Valley League (1923) all have much longer pedigrees. The Coastal Plain League (1997), New England Collegiate League (1993), and Northwoods League (1994) each have a decade more of national exposure than our Ripken League.

The Big Train stayed hot for the first two weeks of the season. At 11-3, the team was ranked #21 in the nation by Perfect Game USA, the only national ranking of summer college baseball teams. In the season's first rankings on June 21, the Ripken League's red hot Southern Maryland Nationals at 11-0 were ranked ten spots better at #11. With a 6-3 victory over the Nationals at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf on June 27 to take over first place at 16-4, the Big Train jumped up to #10 in the Perfect Game rankings. With another hot week winning six and losing only one, the Big Train took a 3.5 game lead in the Ripken League standings at 22-5 and moved up to #8 in the mid-season July 6 national rankings.

The 2010 league regular season champion and perpetual All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) champion Youse's Orioles thumped the Big Train 8-0 at Povich Field to start the second half of the season on a decidedly sour note. Three victories and a 1-0 loss to the Vienna Riverdogs allowed the Big Train to maintain our spot atop the Ripken League at 25-7 and move up to #7 in the national rankings.

Ironically, it was a night in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley where the Big Train bats went hitless that might have had more to do with our ultimate #1 ranking than any other game all year. The Cal Ripken League All-Stars played the Valley

The 2011 Bethesda Big Train's Excellent Adventure



Bethesda Big Train, 2011 National Champions. ©Eye on the Ball, www.eyeball.com

League All-Stars at Harrisonburg's Veterans Memorial Park on Monday July 11. Allan Simpson, a walking baseball encyclopedia and the founder of *Baseball America*, was in the house. Simpson tracks every elite summer college baseball league and produces Perfect Game USA's weekly national rankings. While the Big Train All-Stars didn't shine that night, the Ripken League prevailed 6-3 and Simpson took note. "The Ripken League, in only its seventh year of existence," he wrote, "maintained its unbeaten record in the [Mid-Atlantic] Classic over the older, more-established Valley League, in its

88th year of existence (the last 42 as a sanctioned summer-college league)."

Bethesda's Boys of Summer got red hot the next week – winning six straight games by a combined score of 62-17 to clinch the Ripken League regular season title and a number one seed in the league championship series. And Simpson again took note, jumping the 31-7 Big Train to #3 in the nation. Bethesda split the final four games to finish the 2011 regular season at 33-9, eight games ahead of the Orioles and Nationals with a remarkable .786 winning percentage. With a three game sweep of the playoffs, the Big Train captured its third

2011 Final Regular Season CRCBL Standings

	W-L	%	GB
Bethesda Big Train	33-9	.786	
Southern Maryland Nationals	24-16	.600	8
Youse's Orioles	24-16	.600	8
Baltimore Redbirds	23-19	.548	10
Vienna Riverdogs	18-23	.439	14.5
Rockville Express	17-24	.415	15.5
Alexandria Aces	16-25	.390	16.5
Herndon Braves	16-26	.381	17
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	13-26	.333	18.5

2011 Montgomery Cup Presented by the Gazette

	W-L	%
Bethesda Big Train	10-2	.833
Rockville Express	6-5	.545
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	1-10	.091

*"These past two months, man, I'll
remember forever."*

Big Train MVP Adam Barry

A LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Rewriting the Record Books

Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge) set new league and Big Train season records in four offensive categories:

Batting average: .414

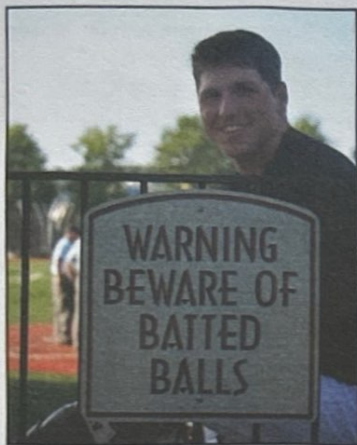
Hits: 67

RBI: 43

Total bases: 90

Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State) set a Big Train season record with 8 home runs.

The Big Train set a team season record for wins with 33.



Hunter Renfroe

consecutive Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Championship and maintained its #3 national ranking with an overall season record of 36-9.

Job well done – #3 in the nation. Wow, what a season! But wait, there was more summer college baseball left to play. The playoffs at many of the more established leagues go on into August. The Hyannis Harbor Hawks of the fabled Cape Cod League held Perfect Game USA's #1 national ranking for most of June until the Edenton Steamers of the Coastal Plain League took over the top spot in the July 12 rankings. The August 2 rankings had Edenton at 44-11 as #1; Hyannis at 28-14 as #2; and the Big Train at 36-9 as #3. But on August 9, the Harbor Hawks, with the Cape's best regular season record, lost the second of two games to the Falmouth Commodores (19-25) bouncing them from the playoffs in

the first round and dropping them to #4 in the national rankings. Edenton (47-12) remained #1, and the Big Train moved up to #2. The Wenatchee Applesox (39-14) of the West Coast League moved into the #3 slot.

On Friday, August 12, Edenton defeated the upstart Gastonia Grizzlies (33-29) in the first game of the best two-out-of-three Coastal Plain League championship series. After both teams made an all-night trek from one end of North Carolina to the other, the task for the Steamers was very clear – win one game out of two on Saturday night, August 13 and be crowned the champion of all of college summer baseball for 2011. You know you are in friendly confines when they call your home park Historic Hicks Field. This 1939 WPA classic is one of the last remaining all-wooden bleacher ballparks still in use in the country. It seemed like half the town turned out, and the Steamers couldn't possibly fail them. But they did, as the Grizzlies swept them 4-2 and 2-0. Meanwhile #3 Wenatchee, the two-time defending West Coast League champions, lost two straight to be bounced in the league semifinals.

Perfect Game USA posted the final 2011 rankings on August 22, three full weeks after the Big Train season ended. It was a long wait, but there on top was our very own Bethesda Big Train, the nation's #1 summer college baseball team for 2011. The Santa Barbara Foresters (44-13) of the California Collegiate League swept the National Baseball Congress World Series to finish #2. The Harwich Mariners (30-20) won the Cape Cod League playoffs and got the #3 ranking. Edenton (49-14) slipped to #7, Hyannis (30-17) to #8. Wenatchee (44-17) was #11 in the final ranking.

Perfect Game's Allan Simpson quoted Big Train Manager Sal Colangelo: "We had a bunch of kids this summer who really knew how to play and our pitching staff was so good that I believe it was Cape Cod quality... The best part of it all is our kids got the experience of a lifetime by playing here. They all bought into

Perfect Game USA's 2011 Summer Collegiate Team Rankings

RANK	June 21	June 27	July 6	July 12	July 19	July 26	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 22
1	HHH	HM	HHH	ES	ES	ES	ES	ES	BBT
2	SBF	SBF	ES	HHH	SBF	HHH	HHH	BBT	SBF
3	ES	ES			BBT	BBT	BBT		HM
4			SBF		HHH			HHH	
5		HHH	HM	SBF				SBF	
6				HM		SBF			
7				BBT				HM	ES
8	HM		BBT						HHH
9									
10		BBT							
11	SMN						SBF		
12									
13					HM				
14									
15									
16							HM		
17									
18									
19						HM			
20									
21	BBT								

BBT Bethesda Big Train (Ripken)
ES Edenton Steamers (Coastal Plain)
HM Harwich Mariners (Cape Cod)

HHH Hyannis Harbor Hawks (Cape Cod)
SBF Santa Barbara Foresters (California)
SMN Southern Maryland Nationals (Ripken)

what we were trying to achieve as a team, and I told them at the end, 'what you accomplished was very, very special.'

Simpson concluded: "The Cal Ripken League has made significant strides in its seven years of existence... Combining the success enjoyed this season by both the Big Train and [AAABA Champion] Orioles, it's been a break-out season, of sorts, for the League – maybe not

quite noteworthy enough to put the league on a par with the more-established Cape Cod League, but enough to enable it to continue its steady climb up the hierarchy of the nation's top summer leagues."

But perhaps Big Train MVP Adam Barry said it best: "These past two months, man, I'll remember forever."



Bethesda Big Train, 2011 National Champions. ©Eye on the Ball, www.eyeball.com

2011 SEASON RECAP

A LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

It was standing room only at Povich Field on opening night June 3 as Kelly Secrest (UNC-Wilmington) pitched six scoreless innings to pick up a 4-0 win over the Baltimore Redbirds. It seemed to be UNC-Wilmington night as Drew Farber knocked in college teammate Michael Bass in the first inning with the only run Secrest would need. In the season's second game, it took the Big Train 11 innings to edge cross-county rival Silver Spring 8-7 on the road behind five strong innings of relief by Josh Schneider (Morehead State). Tucker Tobin (George Mason) went 4 for 6 at the plate. Bethesda finished a perfect opening weekend by beating Alexandria 8-5 on June 5 as Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge) led the offensive attack with three hits and three RBI. Matt Bowman (Princeton) picked up his first victory and Tim Quiery (San Jose State) went 3 for 5 in a 12-1 romp over the Redbirds in

Rockville Express in check to secure a 2-1 win on the road June 12. Another high scoring win at Silver Spring on June 13 extended the Big Train win streak to eight to tie the Southern Maryland Nationals atop the Ripken League. Pitchers ruled on June 15 as Youse's Orioles halted the Big Train win streak with a 1-0 victory. The second week ended with a rain-shortened 2-1 victory over the Vienna Riverdogs, the league's newest entrant, as Kelly Secrest and Chase Smith (Jacksonville State) were dominant on the mound, leaving Bethesda one game behind the 10-0 league leading Nationals.

Week three started with a faceoff of the league's top two teams at Prince George's Stadium, home of the Bowie Baysox, on June 17. For the second time in three nights, the Big Train bats were cold and the Nationals won a 2-0 ballgame to take a two game lead in the Ripken standings. A bad loss to Rockville at home was followed

by another Big Train win streak that began on a beautiful Father's Day evening on June 19 with a 6-2 victory over the Herndon Braves. Ryan Garton (Florida Atlantic) and Michael Frank were strong on the mound, and catcher Hunter

Adam Barry won it with his 16th RBI of the season.

Week four started out with a 3-2 loss to the Express at Povich, but six straight wins propelled Bethesda into the league lead at 20-4 and a top ten national ranking. A 7-2 win over the Braves set up a matchup between the league's top two teams on June 27 in Waldorf. Down 3-0 to the nationally-ranked Nationals, a clutch rally moved the Big Train into the league lead to stay. Hunter Renfroe's towering home run tied the game and Michael Aldrete's triple in the seventh put the Big Train in the lead. Mike Kent (Clemson) notched his third win of the season with three innings of solid relief pitching. A win over the Riverdogs on the road and a win at home over the Aces kept the streak alive. Daryl Norris (Mississippi State) drove in three runs against the Aces in his first appearance for the Big Train, and Kelly Secrest picked up his fourth win of the season. On June 30, on the road in Vienna, the Big Train and Riverdogs traded leads. A clutch two out triple by Adam Barry in the ninth tied the game and set the stage for Hunter Renfroe's dramatic Big Train record-tying seventh home run of the season that gave the Big Train a 6-4 lead. Closer Michael Aldrete sealed the deal. The next night, Aldrete doubled home three in the fifth inning and slammed the door on the Redbirds to notch another save in a 6-5 Bethesda win at Carlo Crispino Stadium in Towson on July 1.

Youse's Orioles spoiled a gorgeous summer Saturday night in front of a capacity crowd at Povich Field with a 7-4 win on July 2. Rain and lightning twice delayed the Sunday July 3 matchup with the Rockville Express, but the 400 fans who stuck it out saw a gem. Starter Matt Bowman pitched 7 scoreless innings and left with the Big Train up 1-0 on Adam Barry's third inning home run. Reliever Martin Agosta picked up the win when Alex Hudak (Florida Atlantic) hit a walk-off single to score Aldrete in the bottom of the tenth inning. A July 5 win on the road in Herndon was

followed by an 8-0 drubbing by the Orioles at Povich and a 6-4 win over the Aces. Bethesda swept the Express in a July 9 doubleheader at Knights Field with the offense led by Barry, Bass, and Tim Wise (Cal Poly).

A week that started with an offensively anemic 1-0 loss to the Riverdogs at Povich Field on July 10 turned out to be one of the most explosive offensive outbursts in Big Train history keying the fourth and final five-or-more-game win streak of the season. Seven straight wins from July 12 to 20 jumped the Big Train to the #3 ranking in the country as the Big Train pulled away and clinched the Ripken League regular season championship. The streak began on July 12 in Vienna where the Big Train bats revenged the 1-0 loss with a 13-4 win over the Riverdogs. And the next night, Aldrete earned a win on the mound on the basis of his own ninth inning walk-off single in an exciting 4-3 July 13 win over the Redbirds. This squeaker was followed by three successive nights of offensive fireworks as the Big Train won 14-3 over the Braves on Sal Colangelo Bobblehead Night, 15-4 over the third place Orioles powered by an Adam Barry 5-RBI night, and 11-0 over the second place Nationals on a Martin Agosta pitching gem that clinched the Ripken League regular season championship.

Bethesda coasted home winning three of its final five regular season games. Cameron Love (San Francisco) picked up his fourth win of the season 5-3 over the Nationals on the road on July 18. A 7-6 victory over Silver Spring preceded back-to-back losses before a team record 33rd regular season victory 8-2 over the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts on July 24 at Povich Field. It was a special night for Big Train 2011 MVP Adam Barry who had three hits in four at-bats to raise his batting average to a Ripken League all-time record .414. Barry rewrote the team and league record books with 66 hits, 43 RBI, and 90 total bases.



Adam Barry. © www.bigtrainphotos.com

Towson on June 7.

The second week began with a 5-2 victory over the Herndon Braves behind another strong pitching performance by Secrest while Barry continued to be an RBI machine. Elliott Waterman (San Francisco) and Martin Agosta (St. Mary's (CA)) blanked the previously unbeaten Youse's Orioles on June 11 and 2010 Big Train MVP Mason Morioka (San Francisco) and Brennan Middleton (Tulane) led the offensive attack in a 7-0 win in front of an appreciative full house at Povich Field. Pitchers Patrick Keane (St. Mary's (CA)) and Michael Frank (Bowling Green) held the

Renfroe (Mississippi State) made a statement with his bat going 3-for-3 with two doubles and his arm gunning down two Braves baserunners. On June 20 on the road in Alexandria, Bethesda thrashed the Aces 15-2. Michael Bass and Brenden Kalfus (St. Mary's (CA)) led the hit parade with four each. A June 22 doubleheader sweep of the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts at Povich and a June 23 4-3 win over the Redbirds on the road completed a five game win streak to end week three just one-half game behind the Nationals. Brennan Middleton's two-out RBI in the ninth sent the game into extra innings where

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

A LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Having earned the number one seed by virtue of having the best regular season record, the Big Train (33-9) faced the #4 seed Baltimore Redbirds (23-19) at Povich Field on Wednesday July 27 in the first round of the double elimination tournament. Bethesda rolled to a 10-4 victory behind solid pitching from starter Matt Bowman and relievers Tucker Donahue (Stetson) and David Wayne Russo (San Jose State). Alex Hudak provided the offensive fireworks with two huge home runs off the Redbirds starter. The #3 seed Orioles (24-16) fell to the #2 seed Southern Maryland Nationals (24-16) 3-0.



Matt Bowman. © www.bigtrainphotos.com

Game two is critical to success in the short, double elimination Ripken League Championship Series. The other teams need to battle each other for the right to play you and then they have to beat you twice. Lose game two, and you are in a big hole. RBI singles by Brennan Middleton and Michael Aldrete put the Big Train ahead of the Southern Maryland Nationals 2-0 in the second. The Nationals scored four unanswered runs and led 4-2 in the fifth. With a run in the fifth, Bethesda was back in business. Aldrete led off the sixth with a walk. Landon Appling (Houston) was hit by a pitch. Norris moved them both into scoring position. With two on, two outs, and two strikes, Hudak laced a single up the middle to put the Big Train ahead 5-4. Starter Martin Agosta went six innings and got the win. Relievers Mike Frank,

Mike Kent, and Aldrete each pitched a scoreless inning to preserve the Thursday night victory with Aldrete getting the save. The Redbirds eliminated the Orioles 3-2 on Thursday and then crushed the Nationals on Friday afternoon 10-1 in a game cut short because of the sweltering heat.

On Friday night July 29, for the third consecutive year, the Big Train faced the Baltimore Redbirds in the league championship game. The Big Train struck first when league MVP Adam Barry singled home Landon Appling in the bottom of the first inning. The Redbirds tied it up in the top of the fourth. A sacrifice fly by Brennan Middleton put Bethesda back on top in the bottom of the fourth, but the Redbirds responded in the fifth to tie the score at two. Big Train starting pitcher Kelly Secrest struck out seven in five innings. But David Wayne Russo picked up the win with four innings of shutout relief when Michael Aldrete crushed a hanging slider over the left-center-field fence for a two-run home run in the seventh to put the Big Train up to stay at 4-2.

"Every year this gets tougher and tougher to win," manager Sal Colangelo told the *Gazette*. "The target on our back keeps getting bigger, but to be able to win this three times in a row is just a testament to the great players and organization we have." Aldrete was named MVP of the league championship series, going 5 for 9 at the plate including the dramatic championship game-winning home run and a save on the mound in the semifinal game.

"All season long, everybody has just had confidence, and we never doubted we would win," MVP Adam Barry told the *Gazette*. "Every night, someone different made a winning play and tonight it was Aldrete. These past two months, man, I'll remember forever."

After an early exit from the Ripken League Championship Series, Youse's Orioles swept six games in Johnstown, PA to capture the national championship of the All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) for the 28th time.

2011 National Championship Season: How the Big Train Did It Game-By-Game

Date	Visitor	Home	Score	W/L	Record	NR
Regular Season						
June 3	Redbirds	Big Train	4-0	W	1-0	
June 4	Big Train	T-Bolts	8-7	W	2-0	
June 5	Aces	Big Train	8-5	W	3-0	
June 7	Big Train	Redbirds	12-1	W	4-0	
June 10	Braves	Big Train	5-2	W	5-0	
June 11	Orioles	Big Train	7-0	W	6-0	
June 12	Big Train	Express	2-1	W	7-0	
June 13	Big Train	T'Bolts	12-9	W	8-0	
June 15	Big Train	Orioles	1-0	L	8-1	
June 16	Riverdogs	Big Train	2-1	W	9-1	
June 17	Big Train	Nationals	2-0	L	9-2	
June 18	Express	Big Train	11-4	L	9-3	
June 19	Braves	Big Train	6-2	W	10-3	
June 20	Big Train	Aces	15-2	W	11-3	#21
June 22	T'Bolts	Big Train	5-0	W	12-3	#21
June 22	T'Bolts	Big Train	4-2	W	13-3	#21
June 23	Big Train	Redbirds	4-3	W	14-3	#21
June 24	Express	Big Train	3-2	L	14-4	#21
June 25	Big Train	Braves	7-2	W	15-4	#21
June 27	Big Train	Nationals	6-3	W	16-4	#10
June 28	Big Train	Riverdogs	12-3	W	17-4	#10
June 29	Aces	Big Train	8-1	W	18-4	#10
June 30	Big Train	Riverdogs	6-4	W	19-4	#10
July 1	Big Train	Redbirds	6-5	W	20-4	#10
July 2	Orioles	Big Train	7-4	L	20-5	#10
July 3	Express	Big Train	2-1	W	21-5	#10
July 5	Big Train	Braves	7-2	W	22-5	#8
July 6	Orioles	Big Train	8-0	L	22-6	#8
July 7	Aces	Big Train	6-4	W	23-6	#8
July 9	Big Train	Express	3-0	W	24-6	#8
July 9	Big Train	Express	6-0	W	25-6	#8
July 10	Riverdogs	Big Train	1-0	L	25-7	#8
July 12	Big Train	Riverdogs	13-4	W	26-7	#8
July 13	Redbirds	Big Train	4-3	W	27-7	#8
July 14	Braves	Big Train	14-3	W	28-7	#8
July 15	Big Train	Orioles	15-4	W	29-7	#8
July 16	Nationals	Big Train	11-0	W	30-7	#8
July 18	Big Train	Nationals	5-3	W	31-7	#3
July 20	Big Train	T'Bolts	7-6	W	32-7	#3
July 21	Nationals	Big Train	7-3	L	32-8	#3
July 22	Big Train	Aces	1-0	L	32-9	#3
July 24	T'Bolts	Big Train	8-2	W	33-9	#3
League Championship Series						
July 27	Redbirds	Big Train	10-4	W	34-9	#3
July 28	Nationals	Big Train	5-4	W	35-9	#3
July 29	Redbirds	Big Train	4-2	W	36-9	#3
Aug 9					36-9	#2
Aug 22					36-9	#1

KEY: Aces – Alexandria Aces | Big Train – Bethesda Big Train
 Braves – Herndon Braves | Express – Rockville Express
 Nationals – Southern Maryland Nationals | Orioles – Youse's Orioles
 Redbirds – Baltimore Redbirds | Riverdogs – Vienna Riverdogs
 T'Bolts – Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts | NR – National Ranking

BIG TRAIN COACH'S AWARDS

A LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Manager Sal Colangelo, in receiving the prestigious Maryland State Amateur Coach of the Year award from the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches (MSABC), told the audience at Camden Yards, "I'd like to thank the players of the Bethesda Big Train more than anyone. Without them, I obviously don't get this award."

For 2011, Colangelo named Ripken League MVP Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge) the team's Most Valuable Player for 2011. "Adam had one of the most sensational summers I have ever seen," noted the manager. "He hit over .400 and demolished virtually every important league and Big Train offensive record. This was the thirteenth season of Big Train baseball. The most hits anyone had ever had in our 42 game season was 56. Adam had 67. That's simply remarkable." Barry, a Third Team Summer All-American, set new league and team records for batting average (.414), hits (67), runs batted in (43), and total bases (90).

Matt Bowman (Princeton) was named the league and the team's Most Outstanding Pitcher. "Matt was our ace," according to Colangelo. "Every time he went to the mound, he gave us a great chance to win. He has the ability to throw four different pitches for strikes in any situation. Matt's a bulldog." Bowman had a 5-2 regular season record with a league best 0.82 ERA. Bowman walked just six batters all season and struck out 46 in 55 innings. Opponents scored only



Sal Colangelo

two runs, one of them unearned, in his two losses.

Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State), a Second Team Summer All-American, was named the Big Train's Most Outstanding Hitter. According to Manager Colangelo, "Hunter has unbelievable power. He has the ability to be a first-round pick in the MLB draft." Renfroe established a new Big Train season record with eight home runs and led the league with a .581 slugging percentage. Perfect Game USA, which listed Renfroe as the league's best prospect and a projected first-round draft pick in 2013, wrote of him: "easily the best raw power in the Cal Ripken League [with] extraordinary arm strength behind the plate."

Colangelo named Mike Aldrete (San Jose State) the team's Most Outstanding Relief Pitcher. "When the game was on the line, no one was better to give the baseball to than Mike," recalled Colangelo. "Having him in the bullpen makes a manager's job easy." Aldrete could also handle the bat, winning the MVP award for the League Championship Series in part because of a dramatic game winning two-run home run in the seventh inning of the championship game.



Adam Barry. © www.bigtrainphotos.com

2011 Big Train Awards & Honors

Big Train Most Valuable Player

Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)

Big Train Most Outstanding Pitcher

Matt Bowman (Princeton)

Big Train Most Outstanding Hitter

Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

Big Train Most Outstanding Relief Pitcher

Michael Aldrete (San Jose State)

Maryland State Amateur Coach of the Year Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches

Sal Colangelo

Perfect Game's 2011 Summer All-Americans

Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge) 3rd Team

Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State) 2nd Team

Matt Bowman (Princeton) 2nd Team

CRCBL 2011 Most Valuable Player

Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)

CRCBL Most Outstanding Pitcher

Matt Bowman (Princeton)

CRCBL 2011 All-League First Team

C Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

1B/3B Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)

SP Matt Bowman (Princeton)

SP Kelly Secrest (UNC-Wilmington)

RP Michael Aldrete (San Jose State)

CRCBL 2011 All-Star Game MVP

Alex Hudak (Florida Atlantic)

CRCBL 2011

League Championship Series MVP

Michael Aldrete (San Jose State)

CRCBL 2011 Player of the Week

July 18-24: Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)

CRCBL 2011 Pitcher of the Week

June 3-12: Kelly Secrest (UNC-Wilmington)

June 27-July 3: Matt Bowman (Princeton)

CRCBL 2011 All-Stars

C Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

1B/3B Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)

2B Michael Bass (UNC Wilmington)

OF Alex Hudak (Florida Atlantic)

SP Martin Agosta (St. Mary's CA)

SP Matt Bowman (Princeton)

SP Ryan Garton (Florida Atlantic)

SP Kelly Secrest (UNC-Wilmington)

RP Michael Aldrete (San Jose State)

CRCBL 2011

Mid-Atlantic Classic All-Stars

C Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

1B/3B Adam Barry (Cal State Northridge)

SP Martin Agosta (St. Mary's CA)

SP Matt Bowman (Princeton)

SP Kelly Secrest (UNC-Wilmington)

RP Michael Aldrete (San Jose State)

Perfect Game Top 30

CRCBL Prospects

#1 Hunter Renfroe (C/Mississippi State)

#4 Matt Bowman (SP/Princeton)

#9 Martin Agosta (SP/St. Mary's CA)

#11 Daryl Norris (1B/Mississippi State)

#13 Adam Barry (1B/3B/Cal State Northridge)

#14 Michael Aldrete (RP/San Jose State)

#19 Kelly Secrest (SP/UNC-Wilmington)

#20 Landon Appling (OF/Houston)

#22 Tucker Donahue (SP/Stetson)

Baseball America Top 10

CRCBL Prospects

#4 Hunter Renfroe (C/Mississippi State)

#6 Tucker Donahue (SP/Stetson)

#8 Matt Bowman (SP/Princeton)

#10 Adam Barry (1B/3B/Cal State Northridge)

"The best part of it all is our kids got the experience of a lifetime by playing here. They all bought into what we were trying to achieve as a team, and I told them at the end, 'what you accomplished was very, very special.'"

Big Train Manager Sal Colangelo